

desirous to see the Turkish advance checked by Frankish chivalry, and to unite with her fleets the armies of Germany, in order to check the aggression of the Normans, which was as dangerous to her now as in the days of Guiscard. On the other, she remembered with what a dangerous cupidity the leaders of the First Crusade had looked upon her capital, and now again the crusading armies, whether French or German, might be tempted to diverge and seize the glittering prize of Constantinople. She trusted, however, to her diplomatists to handle the situation with their traditional skill,

At Chalons, ad of February, 1147, where Louis and Bernard received envoys from Conrad to deliberate which way the Crusaders should take, there appeared also delegates from the Basileus Manuel, offering a friendly reception for the armies if they should march through Hungary, and down the Danube towards the Bosphorus, over which they might cross into Asia Minor; the secret hope of the Greeks being, that the Crusaders would recover the kingdom of Rum for the Empire,

On the other hand, Roger sent envoys to Louis at Etampes (16 February, 1147); they

offered
provisions and transports if the French
would take
the sea route to the Holy Land. The
King of
Sicily's object was something subtler
than a mere
wish to further the Crusade, or to
induce a vast
crusading host to hire the ships, and
stir the
markets, of his kingdom, The
French armies